

March 28, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

? Prime Minister to speak to Mr Gorbachev

Granada programme "Who Bombed Birmingham" broadcast -
will name the 'real' bombers

TUC General Council

DEM: Human Resource Development conference (to March 20)

STATISTICS

HO: Magistrates' courts indictable offences time interval statistics (Oct '89)

PUBLICATIONS

OPCS: Standard occupational classification: volumes one and two

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Local Authority Playing Fields
(Mr Harry Greenway)
Social Security Bill: Progress on Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debates: Employers National Insurance Contributions
(Mr D Skinner)

Select Committees: DEFENCE
Subject: Defence implications of recent events in
Europe
Witness: Rt Hon Tom King MP, Secretary of State
for Defence

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Pollution of Beaches
Witness: Mr David Trippier, MP, Minister for the
Environment and Countryside

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: The 1990 Budget
Witness: Rt Hon Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor
of the Bank of England

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: The Supply of Starter Homes in Wales
Witnesses: Federation of Welsh Housing
Associations

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)
Select Committees:
 (Cont'd)

ENERGY

Subject: Mining Subsidence

Witnesses: Consortium of Authorities Liaising on Subsidence (COALS); United Industry Working Party

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Company Investigations: House of Fraser

Witness: Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley, MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (To be televised)

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Science Policy and the European Dimension

Witness: The Royal Society

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Employment Training

Witnesses: The Centre for Alternative Industrial and Technological Systems; MDS Training Limited

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Immigration and Nationality Department

Witness: Home Office

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Retail Price Index

Witnesses: Sir Geoffrey Holland, KCB, Permanent Secretary, Department of Employment and Sir Jack Hibbert, KCB, Director, Central Statistical Office

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Community Care

Witnesses: Association of Metropolitan Authorities; Association of District Councils; National Federation of Housing Associations and the Housing Corporation

TRANSPORT

Subject: Urban Public Transport: The Light Rail Option

Witness: Passenger Transport Executive Group

PROCEDURE

Subject: The Working of the Select Committee System

Witnesses: Lord St John of Fawsley (at 4.30); Sir Clifford Boulton, KC, Clerk of the House of Commons, Mr Donald Limon, Clerk of Committees (at 5.15)

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

UNOPPOSED BILLS

1. Greater Manchester (Light Rapid Transit System)(No 3) [Lords]
2. South Yorkshire Light Rail Transit No 2
3. Happisburgh Lighthouse [Lords]

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:
(Cont'd)

OPPOSED BILLS

Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]

King's Cross Railways Bill

Lords:

Starred Questions

Consolidated Fund (No 2) Bill: All Stages

Debate to call attention to the problems currently accompanying the imposition of the Community Charge as a means of raising local government finance

Debate to call attention to the Inspectors' Report on House of Fraser Holdings plc

UQ to ask HMG what information they have of current levels of council house rents, and those proposed for the next financial year, in the light of the provisions of the Housing Act 1988 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

ROYAL ASSENT

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Landsbergis, Lithuania's president, appeals to West for help after Soviets raid hospitals to arrest army deserters.

You urge Moscow and Lithuania to cool it.

FT says that Lithuanian leaders, in a letter to Gorbachev, accuse him of "inexcusable aggression" and Landsbergis challenges the West - are you once again willing to sell Lithuania to the Soviet Union?

Independent says Lithuania accuses the West of collusion as Soviet troops round up Vilnius deserters and the crisis deepens. You sidestep call to warn Gorbachev against armed intervention.

Soviet Union launches a public relations counter-offensive, holding a highly unusual press conference in Washington to justify its actions in Lithuania (Times).

Estonians seek to suspend the Soviet constitution, but step back from declaring independence (Independent).

Suspicious grow that Hungarian Interior Ministry officials, and not computers, responsible for delay in voting figures (Independent).

Woodrow Wyatt, writing in the Times after his return from Hungary, says he is impressed by their enthusiasm to develop their country. Hungary, less afraid of original ideas than we are, could take away opportunities from Britain, he concludes.

Comecon to be downgraded as part of process of dismantling the organisation (FT).

FT on forthcoming Anglo-German summit. says Kohl squares up for dinner tussle with you but is likely to be more relaxed than usual as he is "on a high in history". Bonn aides say your Der Spiegel interview reveals you only understood half an answer provided by Kohl on the legal position of the Polish frontier. Article also accuses B Ingham at Rhodes Council of "lies" about Germany in the past and claims your current actions are those of a wounded animal and "need to be understood emotionally" (FT).

London Business School believes Govt will miss its inflation forecast unless it becomes a full member of EMS (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Ian Aitken, in Guardian, says you didn't look a political quitter at Question Time yesterday; you were your usual rampant self.

Mirror says Tories are being torn about over how to deal with Heseltine - those who say let him be; others who want to "get him"; and those who want to see him involved in party campaigning.

Express says you laugh off the Heseltine rebellion.

Govt accused of blacking out Mid-Staffs' victor's entry to Commons by planning oral statements.

Govt bows to demands of Tory backbenchers to help poor pensioners living in private nursing homes (Times).

Cecil Parkinson scraps £2billion disruptive plan for roads in London, bringing relief for thousands whose homes were threatened. Mail says it is a U-turn and a sensible one.

Guardian leader says that Mr Parkinson's ambitious plan to relieve London's growing transport sclerosis shrivelled a few uncoincidental weeks before local authority elections.

Express leads with "On your Bike - leave your cars at home to beat jams". Leader says if Govt ducks hard choices how on earth will the woefully inadequate system be improved?

Mail - Parkinson in U-turn as big road plans to beat jams are axed.

Community charge

Express launches a campaign "to win justice " for Britain's 60,000 student nurses - an issue crying out for sensitivity.

Labour attacks Govt plans for charge capping.

Survey shows charge payers in London Tory boroughs £150 a year better off than in Labour areas.

Conservatives stuffing leaflets into Haringey homes promising charge rebate of £100 if they are elected.

Govt discomfiture over the community charge increased as Mr Biffen calls for speedy review aimed at ending "inequities and injustices" (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Mail attacks Gould's "evasive banalities" over Labour's alternative.

Two Hull fishermen told they will not have to pay community charge because they spend so much time at sea - one spent only 88 days at home last year. 20,000 other merchant seamen could now be exempt (Times).

Avon County Council to go to High Court to try to stop community charge payers having to find £3 per head to help fund Avon & Somerset's police force (Times).

Tony Travers, director of research at the LSE, looks at various alternatives to the community charge in the Times, concluding that most of the options examined would not be particularly appealing to the Govt. To be effective, each would cost the Exchequer billions of pounds. Nevertheless, to govt strategists, the cost and the distortion of accountability may appear small prices to pay to neutralise the electorally damaging effects of the charge as it stands. However difficult it proves, the Govt will have to find a way to buy itself out of the community charge debacle.

A man waiting at a bus top in Maidstone, was stunned when a postman tried to force him to take a community charge demand addressed to the occupier, Bus Stop, High Street. The Council blamed a computer error (FT).

Ford to make 2,800 redundant over 5 years at Halewood to improve productivity.

John Egan, Jaguar, to retire as chairman; will be succeeded by William Hayden, vice president of Ford Europe. Jaguar plans four fold increase in production.

Last minute attempts to derail electricity privatisation plans will be made in Brussels today when EC considers subsidies to the nuclear power industry (FT).

Article on reorganisation of the electricity industry suggests private generators are almost certain to prefer to build smaller, more flexible plants with quicker payback periods (FT).

Electrical contractors award 12% to 33,000 EETPU members.

On this account Govt's hopes of controlling wage inflation suffers further setback (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

MOD moves Procurement Executive, with 3,800 jobs, to Bristol/Bath areas.

Rumanian firm to build B/Aerospace 1-11 jet liners under licence.

British Airways attacks Govt for referring its £30million bid for a 20% stake in Sabena to MMC.

Independent editorial looks at the British space programme, saying the DTI was right to refuse to rescue the Anglo-Soviet Juno plan. But it goes on to criticise the Govt for failing to establish a long-term British space programme, with clear objectives and steady funding.

London Underground staff work up to 16 hour shifts (FT).

Youngsters leaving school to be given £1,500 to shop around for job training.

Today describes EC efforts to "neuter" advertising as "madness".

Royal medical and nursing colleges say NHS is in danger of collapsing if Govt goes ahead with proposals to introduce reforms. They want a three-year pilot study in two health reforms (Times).

Kenneth Clarke rejects these pleas from doctors, nurses and health workers drastically to slow down NHS reforms.

RCN conference told that penniless student nurses are risking their health, and possibly their lives, by taking part in drug trials to earn more than £300 a week (Times).

And yet another Mirror scare - 600 handicapped babies are born each year because the NHS can't afford a £10 blood test to check on Down's Syndrome.

Govt offers council tenants up to £28,000 tax free to leave to buy their own home to ease homeless position. Star thinks these "bribes" make sense and should have tenants hammering on the doors of town halls.

Southwark Council to advertise in homosexual press for gay foster parents; it says children who feel they may be homosexual should be helped by homosexual carers (Sun).

Backbench Tory MPs claim Govt is on verge of backing down over its plans to remove students' right to claim housing benefit as part of its plans to introduce student loans (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

ILEA disbanded amid recriminations from last leader at St Paul's service.

Survey in Scotland reveals 50% of secondary school pupils are bullied (Independent).

Peter Walker accused by NAO of squandering £15.7million of taxpayers' money on "palatial" new offices for D/Energy; final cost £10million over budget. Today says that is only one problem with NAO - it closes stable doors after the horse has bolted.

Sir Peter Emery, according to Guardian, facing complaint that he failed to disclose substantial payments from a foreign state company.

Coalition of environmental organisations warns aid intended to prevent destruction of tropical rainforests could be wasted (Independent).

Times leader says the clearest sign that the environment has moved from the fringe to the mainstream of European politics is the relative decline of "green" political parties. As environmental stewardship has become a standard item in the political wardrobe, the main parties have stolen the minor parties' clothes, a thoroughly healthy paradox.

Nuclear dust alert in flood-hit Towyn from silt - concentrations alleged to be 10-30 times safety levels thought to be from Sellafield.

Sex attacks and violent offences soared last year in London.

Divorces soaring and record numbers of children being born outside marriage.

According to an unpublished Defence Select Cttee report, MOD are sacrificing reliability to save money, thereby hindering Britain's military strength (Independent).

Biggest opium harvest from the Golden Triangle in South East Asia, and a new opium trail to Britain, posing a new threat for the UK (Independent).

Civil Servants in CPS would be able to take on from lawyers the task of presenting simple cases in magistrates' courts under proposals being drawn up by an internal CPS working party (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Glenda Jackson selected as Labour candidate in Hampstead and Highgate.

BBC to raise spending to improve popular programmes including £3million for sport, drama and comedy. Also plans closer link between pay and performance (FT).

Jessica Tandy, Daniel Day-Lewis, Kenneth Branagh and Brenda Fricker among Oscar winners.

After 8 deaths in demos, Sun says Pretoria must put its trigger happy police on a firm leash.

Rise in violence casts doubts over talks between ANC and South African Government (Times).

Independent editorial on Zimbabwe elections says that like many autocrats, Mugabe appears to live increasingly in an unreal world shaped by meglomania and paranoia. While he has done a good deal to heal the wounds of Zimbabwe's civil wars, he now seems to be turning into an irritable tyrant. Such rulers deserve no support from the West and will look in vain for support from the East.

Tekere giving Mugabe a serious run for presidency of Zimbabwe (Independent).

Amnesty International calls on Menem to open independent inquiry into allegations of torture and killings following army rebellion in Buenos Aires last year (Independent).

Angry Australian MPs plot to oust Liberal leader, Peacock, even though a clear result to the general elections has yet to emerge (Independent).

Times says the Govt has decided to try to ride out Conservative opposition to Hong Kong points plan.

Hong Kong Bill, pencilled in for April 23, is likely to revive tory feuding (FT).

Delors sends stiffly worded warning to interim Greek Govt that unless it takes immediate steps to put its ailing economy in order it could lose international credibility (Times).

Israel's Labour Party, unable to form govt says fresh elections may be needed (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

China is reported to have begun exporting missiles, probably to Iran and Iraq, to raise badly needed cash 8FT).

LITHUANIA

Sun says Kremlin is acting with all its old brutality. Cautious voices are urging West to moderate their criticism so they do not undermine Gorbachev. To hell with that, it says. Civilised countries become parties to inhumanity if they do not voice their horror and indignation.

Mail leads under heading "West won't condemn Gorbachev" with crisis in Lithuania stretching West's fragile trust in Russia to its limits. Extraordinary show of restraint. Landsbergis expected to send a special envoy to you this weekend.

Peter Jenkins, writing in the Independent, says Western responses to the latest tense developments in Lithuania have been appropriately measured. Adding that disintegration of the Soviet Union is not a Western goal, and for the West to champion separatist movements that would undermine Gorbachev, who should be regarded as a valuable asset, he concludes that as the Cold War is in retreat, we should learn older lessons about how small countries can upset the grand designs of the great powers.

Lord Home writing in the Times under the heading "All will suffer if Gorbachev strikes" says it is up to Gorbachev to use his power with restraint and ensure an honourable settlement on which peace between neighbours can be built.

Times p1 lead - Lithuanian leaders in angry protest to Gorbachev over arrest of deserters. They ask West for support. US make no official comment on arrests saying it was a delicate diplomatic situation which they did not wish to inflame. Leader says that as tension in the Baltic states shows no signs of abating, unease is spreading through the govts of Europe and America. They should not be uneasy. They should be on guard. Diplomatic activity between Moscow and Washington is intense but, so far, inconclusive. The EC is tamely allowing the US to take the lead. Meanwhile the vice is closing on the Baltic states. If Britain wishes to escape the fate of Babylon, the Govt should at least take account of Lithuania's lessons in next week's Defence White Paper. It would not be right to relax Britain's and NATO's guard until the likely outcome of events inside the Soviet Union has become clear.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph says thus far the outside world seems merely to have given the Lithuanians somewhat mindless encouragement towards defiance. Yet a bloody outcome will be a tragedy for millions far beyond Lithuania.

Guardian leader says high profile confrontation by either side could end in appalling tragedy. A managed transition to independence, within the terms of continued association with Moscow, is advocated.

FT leader on Lithuania says all too many signs suggest the irreparable is about to occur. The only effective help the West can offer is somehow to dissuade Moscow from moving further towards military action. A Tiananmen solution in Vilnius would not directly threaten world peace but it would destroy at a stroke the whole new climate of East-West relations.

ECONOMY

Sun - Lawson gets a pounding from Maggie - you discuss his claim that economic recovery is in peril unless pound goes into ERM.

Today - Lawson on carpet. You slap him down, bluntly rejecting his warning that inflation would rise unless we joined ERM.

Mail - Maggie marks time over money link-up - you leave wide open question of joining ERM.

Independent - You are cautious over Mr Major's optimism over full membership of the ERM.

Telegraph - Thatcher dismisses Lawson call to join Euro exchange rate.

Times - You reject call from Lawson for swifter entry to ERM thus reinforcing impressions of MPs that you are less enthusiastic than many in the Cabinet.

Guardian - Thatcher firm on EMS despite inflation hope. You rebut impression given by Chancellor that projected fall in inflation next year would allow entry into ERM.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard visits Prince's Trust work, sport and leisure course
- DES: Mr MacGregor presents prizes at Bungay, Suffolk
- DOE: Mr Patten attends Solace conference, Hounslow; later addresses Timber Growers annual general meeting
- DTI: Mr Ridley visits Financial Insurance and Mortgage Brokers Regulatory Authority, Suffolk
- DTp: Mr Parkinson addresses British Ports Federation
- SO: Mr Rifkind undertakes marketing launch on behalf of World Business Forum, London
- WO: Mr Walker opens refurbished East Wing Picture Galleries, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff; later opens Britcair Ltd factory extension, Rhymney
- DEN: Mr Morrison addresses Society for Underwater Technology
- DEN: Mr Baldry gives opening address to the Association of Industrial Electricity Producers conference, Cafe Royal, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold presents prizes at Queensmead, Ruislip
- DES: Mr Howarth takes part in London Teachers Recruitment Campaign; Croydon
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits NHS Holiday Club "News Centre", London
- DH: Mr Freeman meets Timothy Raison MP and Anthony Board, Director of the Institute of Complementary Medicine
- DH: Lady Hooper addresses National Forum of Coronary Heart Disease Prevention, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier attends launch of Who's Who in the Environment
- DOE: Mr Spicer addresses National House and Town Planning Council annual conference, Scarborough
- DOE: Mr Chope attends stone laying ceremony, Windsor Victoria Barracks
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits Texas Instruments, Bedford
- DTI: Mr Forth opens Design for the Environment conference, London
- DTp: Mr Atkins addresses international conference on Bridge Management, University of Surrey
- DTp: Mr Portillo attends Channel Tunnel Joint Consultative Committee meeting, Dover
- FCO: Mr Maude meets Mr Deniz Barykal, Secretary General Turkish SDP
- HO: Mr Mellor chairs Ministerial Group on the Misuse of Drugs, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of 5th International Contemporary Art Fair, Olympia, London
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses Midland Bank Small Firms Initiative seminar, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Foreign Secretary has talks with French Foreign Minister, Paris

FCO: Mr Sainsbury visits Alicante and Madrid

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DEM: Mr Howard meets Lucy Carrington from Personnel Today

TV AND RADIO

"Who Bombed Birmingham?" ITV (8.00 pm) Drama documentary which claims to have traced the "real" Birmingham bombers

"Antenna" BBC2 (8.10 pm) Examines whether the nuclear power industry has a future

"Dispatches" Ch4 (8.30 pm) Look at the inside workings of "World Vision", one of the world's biggest charities

"Signals" Ch4 (9.15 pm) Debate on the development scheme for Paternoster Square

"Labour Party Political Broadcast" BBC1 (9.00 pm); ITV (10.00 pm)
BBC2 (10.25 pm)
